



General Assembly
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23 March 1999
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 64
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY - PREVENTION OF
THE VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION
OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 23 March 1999 from the Permanent
Representative of Belarus to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued on 20 March 1999 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus concerning the situation in Kosovo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 64.

(Signed) Alyaksandr SYCHOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



ANNEX

Statement issued on 20 March 1999 by the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Belarus concerning the situation in Kosovo

Belarus regrets that a constructive, mutually acceptable solution was not found during the negotiations held in France between representatives of the official Yugoslav authorities and the Kosovar Albanians. The lack of tangible results in the peace process and the instability of the situation, which is increasing as a result of continuing terrorist acts, are a source of serious concern for Belarus.

In the light of such unfavourable developments in the situation, we believe that the imposition of diktat on the internationally recognized parties to the conflict is absolutely counterproductive. At present, there are no grounds for threats of the use of military force against Yugoslavia, which is defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity and which has repeatedly demonstrated to the international community its political will to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. The use of force can complicate efforts to reach a settlement and bring about a further escalation of the crisis, with unpredictable consequences.

Belarus supports the work of the Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia, which played a key role in initiating a dialogue between the parties to the conflict, and it commends the mediation efforts of the States that have made their contribution to a political settlement of the Kosovo problem. Belarus also highly appreciates the steps being taken by the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and calls for the continuation of joint international efforts to advance the peace process in the region. We look forward to the prompt resumption of the OSCE monitoring mission in Kosovo.

Belarus reaffirms its position regarding a settlement of the conflict in Kosovo, which should be based on unconditional respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and the non-use of force. We are convinced that only strict adherence to these principles can guarantee stable and lasting peace in Kosovo. This will also be facilitated by the prompt restoration of Yugoslavia's full membership in the family of European nations.



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 22 March 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

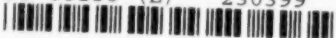
Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 12 March 1999 (A/53/864-S/1999/283), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 18 March 1999.

On that day one C-160 as well as one CN-235 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations.

The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. On the afternoon of the same day the CN-235 departed at 1855 hours, exiting towards the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which constitute a further reminder of that country's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.



I would like, once more, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of those resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his mission of good offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



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Original: French

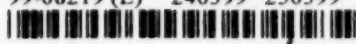
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 110
Human rights questions

Letter dated 19 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the declaration issued on 17 March 1999 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the outcome of the trial against the four members of the "Internal Dissidence Working Group" in Havana, Cuba (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Dieter Kastrup
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations



Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the outcome of the trial against the four members of the "Internal Dissidence Working Group" in Havana, Cuba

1. With regret, the European Union has learned the outcome of the trial against the four members of the "Internal Dissidence Working Group". According to reports, the following sentences were passed: against Mr. Vladimiro Roca Antunez, five years of imprisonment; Mr. Felix Antonio Bonne Carcasses, four years; Mr. Rene de Jesus Gomez Manzano, four years; and Ms. Marta Beatriz Roque Cabello, three and a half years.

2. This group exercised the freedom of expression, which is a universally recognized human right, and the European Union cannot accept that citizens who do so be criminalized by state authorities. At the same time, the European Union rejects judicial proceedings of a political nature. In this context, the European Union wishes to reiterate its objective in its relations with Cuba, namely to encourage a process of transition to pluralist democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as expressed in its common position of 2 December 1996.

3. The European Union deeply regrets that its repeated appeals for the unconditional release of the four members of the "Internal Dissidence Working Group" have been ignored. It wishes to recall that it has already expressed in 1998 its expectation that the four would be released when responding positively to Cuba's request for observer status at the negotiations between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries.

4. The European Union therefore repeats its calls for the prompt release of the four, and will continue to evaluate the development of this matter. The European Union notes that Cuban legislation provides for the alleviation of sentences in certain circumstances.

5. At the same time, the European Union and its member States reiterate their grave concern about the events surrounding the trial, in particular the temporary detention and house arrest of several dozen people, as well as the cutting of their telephone lines. Furthermore, the European Union wishes to express its deep disappointment that neither diplomats nor international media representatives were allowed to attend the trial, although family members of the defendants had been informed of its allegedly "public" nature.

6. Finally, the European Union is deeply concerned about certain provisions of the recent modifications of Cuba's penal legislation, which further curtail the exercise of citizens' rights.



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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 141

Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam Sulaiman (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 49th and 51st meetings, on 15 and 19 March 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.49 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (A/53/789) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/846).



II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.40

4. At the 51st meeting, on 19 March, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, Rapporteur of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti" (A/C.5/53/L.40), which he submitted on the basis of information consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.40 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

Bearing in mind Security Council resolutions 1063 (1996) of 28 June 1996, by which the Council established the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, and 1086 (1996) of 5 December 1996, by which the Council extended its mandate until 31 July 1997,

Bearing in mind also Security Council resolution 1123 (1997) of 30 July 1997, by which the Council established the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti for a single four-month period,

Bearing in mind further Security Council resolutions 1141 (1997) of 28 November 1997, by which the Council established the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti, and 1212 (1998) of 25 November 1998, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 November 1999,

Recalling its resolution 51/15 A of 4 November 1996 on the financing of the Support Mission and its subsequent decisions and resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/246 of 26 June 1998,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Missions are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Missions, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

¹ A/53/789.

² A/53/846.

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Missions by certain Governments,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Missions with the necessary financial resources to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti as at 28 February 1999, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 17.9 million United States dollars, representing 20 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Support Mission to the period ending 30 June 1999, notes that some 37 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation of the Organization, in particular with regard to the reimbursements to troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Missions in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;²

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the United Nations Civilian Police Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 12,264,015 dollars gross (11,577,615 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Civilian Police Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, in addition to the amount of 17,704,685 dollars gross (16,959,085 dollars net) already appropriated under the terms of General Assembly resolution 52/246 and inclusive of the amount of 3 million dollars gross and net authorized by the Advisory Committee under the terms of section IV of Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994;

9. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 17,704,685 dollars gross (16,959,085 dollars net) already apportioned in accordance with its resolution 52/246, to apportion the additional amount of 12,264,015 dollars gross (11,577,615 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 among Member

States, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

10. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated additional staff assessment income of 686,400 dollars approved for the Civilian Police Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Civilian Police Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-third session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti".



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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 22 March 1999 (A/53/871-S/1999/310), I have the honour to draw your attention to new and increasing violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 19, 21 and 22 March 1999.

On 19 March 1999, two Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations.

These aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. On the evening of the same day, both aircraft departed at 1950 hours and 2135 hours, respectively, exiting towards the Ankara flight information region. Furthermore the C-160, mentioned in the violation of 18 March, departed the illegal airport 1659 hours returning to the Ankara flight information region.

On 21 March 1999, 17 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (12 F-16, 2 C-130, 1 C-160 and 1 CN-235, as well as one other aircraft of unknown type) entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations.

The 12 F-16 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-easterly direction.

The 2 C-130 and 1 C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus also flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-easterly direction as well.



The C-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic at 1126 hours. On the afternoon of the same day, the same aircraft departed at 1621 hours, exiting towards the Ankara flight information region.

On 22 March 1999, one C-130, as well as one C-650 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations.

The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. On the same day both aircraft departed that airport, exiting towards the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, these unauthorized Turkish intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, simultaneously, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which demonstrate Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once more, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998) which called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his mission of good offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



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24 March 1999

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 110
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent
Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President
of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, dated 24 March 1999, concerning the principled position of the Royal Government of Cambodia on the issue of the trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders (see annex).

The original of the above-mentioned letter has already been handed over to Thomas Hammarberg, your Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia.

I should be very grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) OUCH Borith
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Prime Minister of Cambodia
to the Secretary-General

Allow me to draw to your kind attention the issue of the trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders and to clarify the principled position of the Royal Government of Cambodia on this matter, as follows:

1. As explained in the aide-mémoire dated 12 March 1999 handed over to you by Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and my declaration dated 19 March 1999 (A/53/867-S/1999/298, annex), an existing national tribunal of Cambodia should take up the case to charge and convict Ta Mok and other Khmer Rouge leaders if found guilty of crimes of genocide committed in Cambodia, whose victims are the Cambodian population, according to article 33 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia and article VI of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

2. To ensure that the aforesaid trial by the existing national tribunal of Cambodia meets international standards, the Royal Government of Cambodia welcomes assistance in terms of legal experts from foreign countries. It is, however, up to the tribunal to determine the number of these legal experts. The Royal Government of Cambodia does not have any power to impose anything on the competent tribunal.

3. The issue of whether to try Ta Mok alone or any other Khmer Rouge leaders depends entirely on the competence of the tribunal. The Royal Government of Cambodia will not exert any influence on or interfere, in any form, in the normal proceedings of the judiciary, which will enjoy complete independence from the executive and legislative powers.

4. May I request your kindness in circulating the present letter as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

With the above clarification, I do hope that there will be no more misleading interpretations which do not serve the cause of peace, stability, national reconciliation and justice in Cambodia.

(Signed) HUN SEN
Prime Minister



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 155
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I should like to refer to the letter dated 12 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/828-S/1999/150). I refer in particular to the fourth paragraph of the letter, which was wrongly circulated under the agenda item concerning measures to eliminate international terrorism. In that regard, I should like to clarify the following points:

1. The Syrian Arab Republic condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal because they are directed against the lives and property of innocent persons, infringe on national sovereignty and undermine regional security. Syria also calls for genuine cooperation among all States within the framework of international law in taking the necessary steps to prevent, combat and eliminate the causes of terrorism.
2. The Syrian Arab Republic has called for the preparation of internationally agreed standards that clearly distinguish between terrorism, which must be condemned and countered, and legitimate national struggles against foreign occupation, which must be supported. Syria has called for the convening of an international conference to define terrorism, to examine its hidden causes, to prevent confusion between terrorism and national liberation struggles against foreign occupation, and to study the underlying causes of acts of violence that may arise as the result of the violation of the fundamental rights of peoples, and also as a result of misery, frustration, a sense of injustice, and despair.
3. Nothing in United Nations resolutions can undermine in any way the right of peoples to self-determination, freedom, independence and to liberate their territory from foreign occupation, since all of these rights are contained in the Charter of the United Nations. Nor is there anything that can detract from



the right of peoples to engage in a legitimate struggle to that end and to seek and receive support in accordance with the principles of the Charter, the Declaration on the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, and the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

4. Israeli State terrorism, as practised against the Lebanese people, the people of Palestine and the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan, must be vigorously condemned. Israel's record in Lebanon is a catalogue of criminal acts of terrorism that includes, for example, the Qana massacre. Israel has never ceased to carry out acts of terrorism in order to achieve its goal of extending its hegemony and intimidating the Arab people with a view to expelling them from their lands and replacing them with their own settlers, in contravention of the norms of international law and, in particular, the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

5. Finally, the Israeli letter seeks to portray the Israeli State's acts of piracy, aggression, expansionism and terrorism as acts of legitimate self-defence and this at a time when the peoples of the world are beginning to regard State terrorism as one of the most dangerous forms of terrorism. Occupation and settlement are the ugliest forms of terrorist practices, and international efforts should be redoubled to combat and halt such terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mikhail WEHBE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 155
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I should like to refer to the letter dated 12 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/828-S/1999/150). I refer in particular to the fourth paragraph of the letter, which was spuriously circulated under the agenda item concerning measures to eliminate international terrorism. In that regard, I should like to clarify the following points:

1. The Syrian Arab Republic condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal because they are directed against the lives and property of innocent persons and violate national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Syria also calls for genuine cooperation among all States within the framework of international legitimacy in taking the necessary steps to prevent terrorism and to combat and eliminate its causes.
2. The Syrian Arab Republic has called for the establishment of internationally agreed standards that clearly distinguish between terrorism, which must be condemned and combated, and legitimate national struggles against foreign occupation, which must be supported. Syria was the first to call for the convening of an international conference to define terrorism, to examine its hidden causes, to prevent confusion between terrorism and the struggle of peoples for liberation from foreign occupation, and to study the underlying causes of acts of violence that may arise as the result of the violation of the fundamental rights of peoples, and also as a result of misery, frustration, a sense of injustice, and despair.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

3. Nothing in United Nations resolutions can undermine in any way the right to self-determination, freedom, independence and the liberation of territory from foreign occupation, since all of these rights are contained in the Charter of the United Nations. Nor is there anything that can detract from the right of peoples to engage in a legitimate struggle to that end and to seek and receive support in accordance with the principles of the Charter, the Declaration on the Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, and the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

4. The terrorism that must be vigorously condemned rather is the State terrorism perpetrated by Israel against the Lebanese people, the people of Palestine and Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan. Israel's record in Lebanon is replete with criminal acts of terrorism, including, for example, the Qana massacre. Israel has never ceased to carry out acts of terrorism in order to achieve its goals of expansionism, hegemony and terrorization of the Arab people with a view to expelling them from their lands and replacing them with its own settlers, in defiance of the norms of international law and, in particular, the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

5. Finally, the Israeli letter seeks to portray the Israeli State's acts of piracy, aggression, expansionism and terrorism as acts of legitimate self-defence and this at a time when the peoples of the world have come to regard State terrorism as one of the most dangerous forms of terrorism and, indeed, occupation and settlement as the most horrendous forms of terrorism. In this respect, international efforts should be redoubled to combat and put an end to such terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mikhail WEHBE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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Security Council**

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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY - PREVENTION OF THE
VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of
Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement issued on 24 March 1999 by the President of Belarus, Mr. A. G. Lukashenka, concerning the situation in Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alyaksandr SYCHOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Belarus to the United Nations

Annex

Statement issued on 24 March 1999 by the President of Belarus
concerning the situation in Yugoslavia

It was with great alarm that Belarus reacted to the decision of the leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to use military force against Yugoslavia, a sovereign State. The North Atlantic Alliance's recourse to extreme and highly counterproductive measures to solve a crisis demonstrates its unwillingness to exhaust all existing means for a peaceful settlement of Yugoslavia's internal conflict; this can only be condemned by the international community.

Such disregard for the opinion of a number of States and the efforts undertaken by international organizations to resolve the Kosovo problem through non-violent means is a demonstration of utter contempt for universally recognized legal norms and jeopardizes the functioning of the entire system of international security.

Belarus wishes to state, once again, that the use of military force against Yugoslavia and the introduction of any foreign armed formations into the territory of Yugoslavia against the wishes of its Government is an open act of aggression that places on the aggressor the full weight of the consequences of such aggression.

Belarus fully supports the Russian Federation's position on the Kosovo problem. Only strict and unconditional adherence to the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and the non-use of force can guarantee stable and lasting peace in the region.

Belarus calls for the immediate convening of an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, and for international condemnation of the use of military force against a sovereign State.



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Fifty-third session
Agenda items 40 and 155
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letters dated 22 February and 16 March 1999 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Israel (A/53/840-S/1999/185 and A/54/74-S/1999/300), which were written in response to our letter of 18 February 1999 concerning Israel's expansion of the area it occupies in southern Lebanon by including in it the village of Arnoun as of 17 February (A/53/834-S/1999/172).

1. These two letters deliberately seek to ignore the prime fact in southern Lebanon that has been the cause of the violence and abuse directed against Lebanese residents there, namely the 21 years of Israeli occupation in flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations as it concerns relations between States.
2. Israel has refused to implement resolution 425 (1978), in which the Security Council calls upon Israel to withdraw its occupying forces forthwith and unconditionally to the internationally recognized boundaries. Its leaders have repeatedly issued statements linking acceptance of the resolution with measures and conditions that are alien to its letter and spirit and that, once admitted, would alter its legal and political character. By its intransigence, Israel has caused the deaths of thousands of Lebanese civilians and enormous losses in terms of property damage without its occupation achieving the security sought for its own citizens. It is difficult, by any measure, to accept the Israeli scenario that peace and security should be established in the area before the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory is ended.
3. The truth is obscured by the characterization, in both letters from the representative of Israel, of the Lebanese national resistance as terrorism. That resistance is sanctioned by international law and custom, to say nothing of



the fact that Israel and other countries recognized its legitimacy in connection with the understanding of April 1996.

4. The Lebanese resistance targets only the Israeli occupation inside Lebanese territory, and it responds to Israel's targeting of Lebanese civilians in its assaults.

5. The circulation of the two letters under agenda item 155, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", gives the false impression that Lebanon is encouraging terrorism, whereas the Lebanese Government has frequently voiced its condemnation of terrorist acts. It has been joined in such condemnation by a large number of Governments, of both Arab and non-Arab countries, in the forefront of which has been that of the Syrian Arab Republic. The latter has, moreover, called for the convening of an international conference to define terrorism, to elaborate internationally acceptable criteria for differentiating between terrorism and national struggle for liberation from foreign occupation and to study the underlying causes of acts of violence that stem from the violation of basic human rights, misery, frustration, a sense of grievance and despair.

6. It is the State terrorism in which Israel has been engaging throughout its history against the peoples of Lebanon and other countries in the region under cover of conducting pre-emptive strikes that cannot be justified on any grounds whatever that has been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations and by regional and international conferences, and it has been demonstrated with the passage of time that this is not an effective way to establish international peace and security in the region.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



General Assembly
Security Council

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GENERAL

A/53/879
S/1999/334
25 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 39, 40 and 84
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 March 1999 from the Permanent Observer
of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Yesterday, the Israeli representative to the United Nations made some comments to the media on the issue of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, as well as on a statement previously made by President Arafat on the subject. The Israeli representative repeated what the Israeli Foreign Minister said a few days ago, namely that resolution 181 (II) was "null and void". These are pathetic statements involving illegal positions with far-reaching and serious consequences.

For the Palestinian side, and since the strategic decision to forge a peace on the basis of coexistence, resolution 181 (II) has become acceptable. The resolution provides the legal basis for the existence of both the Jewish and the Arab States in Mandated Palestine. According to the resolution, Jerusalem should become a corpus separatum, which the Palestinian side is willing to take into consideration and to reconcile with the Palestinian position that East Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian territory and the capital of the Palestinian State. The Palestinian side adheres to international legitimacy and respects General Assembly resolution 181 (II), as well as Security Council resolution 242 (1967), the implementation of which is the aim of the current Middle East peace process.

Israel must comply with United Nations resolutions. It has no power to unilaterally annul any of those resolutions, particularly such a historic

resolution as 181 (II). Israel's claim that the resolution is "null and void" is illegal, and it is also inadmissible given the history of the matter.

Prior to its admission to United Nations membership, Israel made clear pledges to the members of the United Nations that it would implement resolution 181 (II) and resolution 194 (III) of 1949, related inter alia to the rights of Palestine refugees. In actuality, resolution 273 (III) of 11 May 1949, admitting Israel to membership in the United Nations, recalled in its preamble both of those resolutions and took note of the declarations and explanations made by the representative of the Government of Israel before the Ad Hoc Political Committee with respect to the implementation of the said resolutions.

Furthermore, in the "Declaration of the State of Israel", it is clearly stated that Israel is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of 29 November 1947. In fact, the declaration, at least in part, was made on "the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly".

Thus, while we are not sure whether or not the officials of the Israeli Foreign Ministry understand what they are stating and its implications, the international community should nevertheless take it seriously. Moreover, we believe that Israel must still explain to the international community the measures it took illegally to extend its laws and regulations to the territory it occupied in the war of 1948, beyond the territory allocated to the Jewish State in resolution 181 (II). Such a situation has not been accepted by the international community.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 39, 40 and 84, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of
Palestine to the United Nations



General Assembly
Security Council

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S/1999/335
25 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 10
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on 24 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations



Annex

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Ukraine of 24 March 1999

It is with deep inquietude and concern that Ukraine has perceived the news about NATO air strikes against the targets on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Adhering to the norms and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, Ukraine considers as inadmissible the use of military force against a sovereign State without authorization of the United Nations Security Council - the only body entrusted to take such decisions in order to maintain international peace and security.

At the same time, Belgrade's refusal to sign the agreements elaborated through the mediation of the Contact Group resulted in the breakdown of the negotiating process. Therefore, the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998) have not been fully implemented and that led to the use of force.

Ukraine urges the parties to the conflict, as well as the international community, to urgently exert additional efforts in order to stop the further escalation of the conflict. It is necessary to return as soon as possible to a peaceful political settlement on the basis of the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the granting of a wide autonomy to Kosovo.

Ukraine reaffirms its readiness to contribute to the efforts aimed at restoring peace and ensuring stability and respect for human rights, including the rights of national minorities on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.



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25 March 1999

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 10
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a statement of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine of 24 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations



ANNEX

Statement of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine of
24 March 1999 concerning aggressive acts by NATO against
the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On 23 March 1999, the NATO leadership took a decision, without mandate from the United Nations Security Council, to carry out a military action against one of the Member States of the United Nations - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine considers these acts by NATO as an aggression against a sovereign State, fraught with danger of escalation into a large-scale military conflict.

Having taken the above decision, NATO flagrantly violated not only the principles of the United Nations and universally recognized norms of human ethics, but also its own basic documents, in accordance with which military operations of the Alliance may be conducted with the exclusive aim of guaranteeing the security of its Member States.

Realizing the grave danger of these developments, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

Emphasizes that the Kosovo problem can and has to be settled through political process and negotiations on the basis of the universally recognized norms of international law;

Urges all parties to the conflict to take all the necessary measures to resume the peace process in order to find the mutually acceptable solution to the Kosovo problem;

Requests the leadership of NATO and the United States of America to abandon recourse to military force as a way to find a solution to the Kosovo problem, which is an internal affair of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Urges the international community to exert maximum efforts in order to stop NATO attempts to use force in the Balkans;

Appeals to the Parliaments and Governments of Europe to prevent the military actions of NATO in Yugoslavia and to achieve, through joint efforts, a peaceful solution of the Kosovo problem;

Urges the United Nations Security Council to urgently consider at its meeting the situation created by the decision of NATO concerning the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

**General Assembly**

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25 March 1999
English
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Fifty-third session**Agenda item 44**

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 23 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 13 January 1999 (A/53/795) from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica addressed to you in connection with my letter of 19 November 1998 (A/53/685).

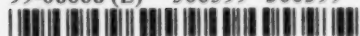
In paragraph 1 of the letter in question (A/53/795), we regret having used the term "military" to describe the armed national defence forces which the Government of Costa Rica is seeking to transport on the basis of a right to freedom of navigation that is not permitted under the Jérez-Cañas Treaty. This involuntary error may be attributed to the linguistic habit of referring to the armed forces responsible for guarding national borders as "military" forces. Nevertheless, we apologize for not having used the name given to the armed forces of Costa Rica by the laws of that State.

With regard to paragraph 2, I wish to reiterate that there is no dispute between Nicaragua and Costa Rica concerning matters of territorial sovereignty or any other matters. As far as Nicaragua is concerned, both Nicaraguan sovereignty over the San Juan River and Costa Rica's right to freedom of navigation for purposes of trade along a stretch of the river are clearly established in the Jérez-Cañas Treaty of 1858 and the Cleveland decision of 1888. Both of these instruments remain in force and are scrupulously observed by Nicaragua.

Lastly, Sir, Nicaragua enjoys excellent relations with Costa Rica and reiterates its firm desire to continue to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation that unite the Governments and peoples of the sister Republics.

I should be grateful if you would have this clarification circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44.

(Signed) Alfonso Ortega Urbina
Permanent Representative





General Assembly
Security Council

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26 March 1999
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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 64
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY - PREVENTION OF THE
VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative
of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué issued on 24 March 1999 by the Government of Mexico concerning the situation in Kosovo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manuel TELLO
Permanent Representative
of Mexico to the United Nations



Annex

Communiqué issued on 14 March 1999 by the Government
of Mexico

In connection with the air strikes begun today by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against Serbian military targets, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its concern that no peaceful means of solving the existing dispute among the various parties to the conflict in Kosovo has been found. It also regrets the recourse to the use of force in the Balkan region without the express consent of the Security Council, the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico is firmly convinced that the preferred means of settling a conflict must be dialogue and negotiation, and it therefore calls on all parties to resume, as soon as possible, talks with a view to achieving a stable and lasting peace based on respect for the human rights of all ethnic groups in the region, and on the territorial integrity of States.



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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY - PREVENTION OF THE
VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative
of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué issued on 25 March 1999 by the countries members of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action in Latin America (Rio Group) concerning the situation in Kosovo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manuel TELLO
Permanent Representative of
Mexico to the United Nations



Annex

Communiqué issued on 25 March 1999 by the Rio Group

The countries members of the Rio Group express their anxiety about the commencement of air strikes by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against Serbian military targets and, in particular, their concern that no peaceful means of solving, in conformity with international law, the existing dispute among the various parties to the conflict in Kosovo has been found.

The Rio Group therefore calls on all parties to resume, as soon as possible, talks with a view to achieving a comprehensive and final settlement with a view to re-establishing a stable and lasting peace based on respect for the human rights of all ethnic groups and minorities in the region, and on the territorial integrity of States.

The Rio Group also regrets the recourse to the use of force in the Balkan region in contravention of the provisions of Article 53, paragraph 1, and Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, which state "... no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council" and "the Security Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security".
